



"Armed for Suffering" (Part 4)

The Error of Universalism

09081Pe4.6(85)

1 Peter 4:6



1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** for as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men but for the will of God. **3** For the time already past is sufficient [for you] to have carried out the desires of the pagans, while having pursued licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, partying, drinking binges, and lawless idolatries. **4** In this they are ever surprised that you do not run with [them] into the same flood of debauchery, [and] they blaspheme

[you]. **5** But they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** [The Gospel] for this purpose has been preached even to the dead that although they are judged according to the flesh as men, they may live by the Spirit according to [the will of] God.

– 1 Peter 4:1-6, As translated from the Greek New Testament by T. Bartolucci.

The Passage is Also Found on Page 182 of the New Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

Introduction: What is Universalism?

1) It is the belief that every single person who ever has lived will be _____ .

There are two basic types of universalism:

1) Type that comes from Faustus Socinius, characterized by:

2) Type that comes from Origen, characterized by:

* Tony Campolo?

A booklet entitled, "A Proposed Correction of a Source of Misunderstanding in the Westminster Confession of Faith"

Eisegesis = reading something into a verse or passage that isn't there.

Exegesis = drawing out and correctly interpreting the truth of a verse or passage.

The history of the church littered with universalism?

"A belief in the eternal, conscious torment of the lost in hell has been the almost unbroken testimony of the church, as has been the doctrine of the certain immortality of mankind." [Dr. Richard Mayhue, Senior Vice President and Dean, Professor of Theology and Pastoral Ministries, The Master's Seminary, cited in TMS 9/2 (Fall 1998), 131]

"As regards the fate of the wicked ..., the general view was that their punishment would be eternal, without any possibility of remission." [J.N.D. Kelly, "Early Christian Doctrines," 483]

"The punishment inflicted upon the lost was regarded by the Fathers of the Ancient Church, with very few exceptions, as endless." [William G.T. Shedd "A History of Christian Doctrine," Vol. 2, 414]

"Everlasting punishment of the wicked always was ... the orthodox theory." [Philip Schaff, "The History of the Christian Church," Vol. 2, 273-74]

I. Common Threads Among False Teachers

A. Strand # 1: False teachers mimic truth

1. Bad scholarship shows itself for what it is

2. However, we know it's not all about the head, it's about the _____

3. In many ways, this is a matter of presuppositions

"People will believe what they want to believe."

B. Strand #2: False Teachers claim that they have the truth that the church has missed for centuries

C. Strand #3: False teachers often have their own corrected version of the Bible or they demand adherence to a particular translation

D. Strand #4: False teachers are almost always corrupt in more than one area of their theology

1. Heresy rarely occurs in a _____

E. Strand #5: False teachers deny God's Nature and Sovereignty

F. Strand #6: False teachers ultimately pervert the Gospel

II. A Reformational Response to Universalism